The Lions' Pride

THE LIONS' PRIDE MEDIA GROUP

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Saint Leo Graduate Presents At TEDxOrlando

By Clement Goujon
Contributing Writer

Photo taken from @LeahMasuda

At TEDxOrlando, Mohrat told the story of his journey from Syrian activist, to pro-democracy exile, to computer science graduate from St. Leo University.

Ammar Mohrat is an alumni of Saint Leo University. He graduated in Spring 2017 with a degree in computer science and a GPA 3.7. Recently, Mohrat was selected to talk for the well-known platform TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design).

TED, a media nonprofit organization founded in 1984, posts talks online available for free under the slogan "ideas worth spreading." At the start, the talks were produced annually and the topics of the topics were focused on technology and design, consistent with its Silicon Valley origins. Now, many kind of topics are available on their web site, such as scientific, cultural and academic. The conferences take place in many cities in the United States, Canada, Europe and Asia. The time for a speaker to talk is roughly 10 to 18 minutes.

Mohrat was selected to talk with 12 other speakers for TEDxOrlando; his speech was held at Full Saint in Orlando on Oct 27. Being chosen to speak is a highly selective process; a speaker needs to be a good orator and to have a good story or a good knowledge to speak about. Mohrat didn't think about doing a TED talk but the organizer asked him if he was interested to share his story.

"The organizer is a TKE brother who graduated from UCF; he asked me if I am interested in sharing my story and the story of millions of refugees in TED platform," Mohrat said. "I sent my Talk outline, and then it was reviewed and chosen."

The preparation for a TED talk is pretty intense; the experts of TED advise to spend one hour of work for one minute of speaking. The speaker has to write his speech and to memorize it perfectly. Three weeks before the TEDx, Mohrat said that his preparation was going pretty well; at that point, he finished writing the outline and most of content, and he was just working on shaping and memorizing his speech what he has to a TEDx. Because the talk needed to be perfect and it was a huge quantity of work, Mohrat received the help from two mentors: one was in Orlando and one was Australia.

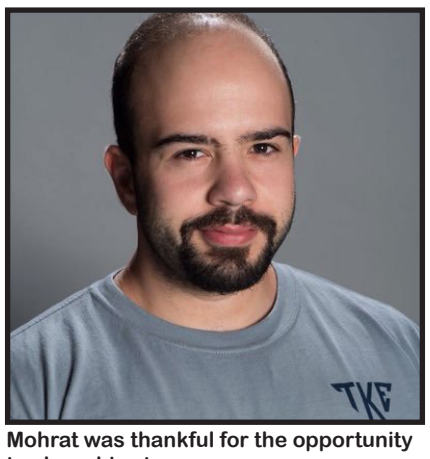

Photo taken from @AmmarMohrat

Mohrat was thankful for the opportunity to share his story.

Being selected for TED is a great honor because majority of the speaker request every day, but just a few are selected. Although Mohrat is excited for this opportunity; three weeks before the TEDx, he was still a little stressed because he is anxious with public speaking. Nevertheless, it was not his first experience as a speaker; indeed, he was the commencement speaker at the graduation ceremony in Spring 2017; that is why he is pretty confident about overcoming this stress.

"Before giving the commencement speech at Saint Leo I was afraid of public speaking," said Mohrat. "But that experience in the graduation ceremony showed me that I can be really good at speaking in front of a lot of people. I am sure I will overcome it."

Mohrat seems to be a perfect candidate because of his story. He was born and raised in Homs, a city in Syria of about 780,000 inhabitants. His story in the United States began when he was 20 years old.

"When I was 20 years old; I had to flee my homeland and become a refugee to escape assassination or worse: imprisonment or torture by brutal dictatorship," said Mohrat. "I came to Saint Leo in Fall 2013; I was 22 years old. I was lucky to be selected as one of the two Syrian students who were offered full scholarship from Saint Leo."

Mohrat encountered many obstacles as an international student when he came in the US. The main obstacle was a language barrier; since he didn't speak English it was hard for him to socialize with the others, and it really affected his self-confidence.

"I did not speak English very well, and I always felt shy speaking with native speakers," said Mohrat. "You know; it's not easy making friends with Americans if you don't speak the tongue."

However, Mohrat worked hard, learnt English and finally, he is well integrated in the United States.

Being the Commencement speaker for his graduation was the fruition of his adjustment into American; when he came, he didn't speak English and 4 years after he became the commencement speaker. It was a great honor for him and also something that he wanted to do since he was Freshman.

"Since I was Freshman, I was planning to be the commencement speaker; I knew it wouldn't be easy. It started when my friends nominated me for it. And then, I had to compete 7 or 8 other classmate," said Mohrat. "I remember, I got to the finalist with other 3 girls, and we were all part of Greek life, so that was kind of hard because all of them were active on campus and had good stories. I was honored

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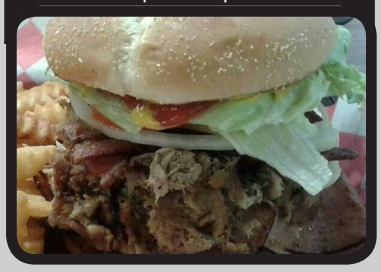

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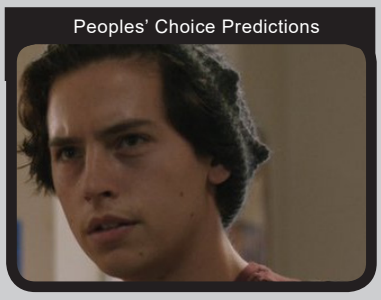
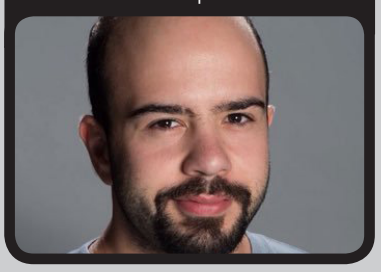


Saint Leo Student Speaks at TEDTALK



Venom Movie Review

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Lifestyle

Red Top Pit Stop: A Must Stop

By William Burns
Contributing Writer

On the way to Lakeland, about 15 miles away from Saint Leo on Highway 98, sits a big, black bar-b-que grill outside a small shack. Inside there are few tables and seating for around 30 people; from the setup, it appears to be a converted convenience store. Once inside you are greeted by the smell of smoked and barbequed meats and a cheery waitress.

This restaurant is very easy to pass by without giving it a second thought unless you've already tasted the delicious bar-b-que offered within. They serve your everyday bar-b-que items like pulled pork, smoked brisket, ribs, country fried steak, sirloin tips, smoked pork, etc. as well as a wide selection of "specialty" burgers that make you salivate.

Of course, you can go with the Pit Stop Single which includes a half-pound burger with all the toppings, or if you're really hungry you can get the Meat Wagon, a half-pound all beef patty topped with bacon, ham, smoked pulled pork and the standard lettuce, tomato, onion and pickles. If you haven't eaten in a week, then there is also the Finish Line, ironically named because the burger is literally unfinishable. It consists of a one-pound patty loaded with bacon and smothered in chili and cheese. Other burgers can be topped with jalapeños, gouda cheese, blue cheese, smoked brisket, cheddar and mushrooms.

This doesn't even come close to scratching the surface of their selection as their lunch and dinner menu has over 35 options! And did I mention they serve breakfast all day as well?

I have not tested the breakfast menu out, but they offer 11 three-egg omelets, which can include onions, peppers, ham, bacon, sausage, pork, mushrooms, chili and brisket. There are also 15+ breakfast plates available to choose from if you aren't into omelets.

The pricing is very reasonable, especially compared to the portions. Breakfast runs from $5.99 to $11.99, and lunch and dinner options go from $6.99 to $15.99. Whatever you get, you will never leave hungry; the portions are VERY generous, to say the least.

The service was extraordinary, and the waitresses were able to answer my questions fully and were always ready if I needed anything. The food took between 10 to 15 minutes to come out, but with the relaxed atmosphere inside the restaurant, it went by fast. Red Top Pit Stop is open Sunday through Tuesday 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Wednesday through Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

They even have a Facebook page with almost 4000 likes, great reviews and more pictures of mouth-watering food. With daily specials and a great selection, meat eaters will have a field day at this place. Whereas there are sides a vegetarian could get and eat, it would not be as good of an experience for them. They definitely have some "Deep South" flavor in their food, and I will be heading there again soon. Red Top gets 4.5 out of 5 paws due to the run-down nature of the building giving off a slightly dirty vibe. This was hands down the best bar-b-que I've had since Kansas City!

Photo taken by: William Burns

The Meat Wagon is piled high with a half-pound patty, ham, pulled pork, bacon and all the fixings.

Restaurant Rating:
4.5 out of 5 paws

The Lions' Pride Weekly Word Search
"Touchdown with Words"

BBQ Word Queue

C	W	N	W	D	D	Y	B	U	A	P	J	C	H	G	F	P	V	H	F	I	C	S	L	P	W	H	M	T	A
Z	A	L	P	S	N	I	Q	F	Q	I	G	N	S	Y	F	P	Y	N	R	M	Z	G	X	O	H	Z	R	H	D
J	B	M	Q	G	I	W	E	V	K	B	V	W	Z	Y	A	W	J	Z	Q	M	W	A	W	N	W	C	J	E	Y
D	N	X	Q	B	J	A	T	E	K	V	M	R	C	C	C	Q	V	M	K	B	O	E	R	J	N	K	K	S	O
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BACON
BARBECUE
BRISKET
CHARCOAL
CHEESEBURGER
CHICKEN
COLESLAW
CORN
FIRE
FRIES
GRILL
HOTDOGS
PULLEDPORK
REDTOP
SMOKED

Liked the Review Above?

Do you have a restaurant that you would like to see featured on the Lifestyle page of the *The Lions' Pride*?

Let Us Know!

Send us an email of the place at thelionspride-newspaper@gmail.com

Campus News

Saint Leo Graduate Presents TEDxOrlando Cont'd

Continued from Page 1

when most of my class chose me to represent them on their best day."

It is a great experience that anyone never forget. The video of the speech can be view on YouTube. It was selected in the top 8 speeches in the states for the year of 2017 by the website "The Nation".

Despite having being selected as a commencement speaker, being honored with top 8 speeches, having a degree and a high GPA, Mohrat still found it difficult to find a job after college. Due to this, Mohrat had some issues with his first after college. He got his job right after graduation, but because of immigration status, he had to quit his job. Nevertheless, he works at FairWarning technologies a computer software in ClearWater and he works for Microsoft as well.

The capacities of Mohrat to adapt to everything, to socialize and to work hard permits to him to be very successful. When he came in the United States he didn't speak English, but he was able to learn, to integrate a fraternity where he was the only foreign student, he was able to be selected as the commencement speaker at Saint Leo University, to graduate with a good GPA and finally to be selected for a TED talk. His story is inspiring as he overcame every obstacle; which possibly gives credence as to why he was selected for this prestigious experience.

Photo taken from @OSV

When Mohrat was in Syria he was an activist. He joined pro-democratic protests despite leader Bashar al-Assad arresting and killing protestors. One of the victims was his best friend, who was shot by a sniper and lay dying beside him, according to the Tampa Bay Times.

Be on the lookout for TEDxOrlando photos and video featuring Ammar Mohrat online.

Big Changes for a Better SGU

By Philip Waitkevich
Contributing Writer

Around three weeks ago, on Oct. 17, the Senate passed an amendment to their organization's constitution. Although the Judicial Committee plans to begin amending the constitution Nov. 6 officially, this potential amendment serves as a prelude for the changes to come. This proposed change is part of an ongoing operation by the Senate to fix their constitution.

There were around 40 changes to the Senate's constitution last year. In general, the constitution should be changed sparingly; however, these changes needed to be done. The changes were mainly about reorganizing the constitution, ensuring that the constitution wasn't contradicting itself and closing loopholes.

"The constitution is an important document that governs SGU, and so it should be as clear, as readable and as precise and concise as possible," said Senate faculty advisor Frank Orlando.

Additional changes included the clarification of the capabilities and responsibilities of the Student Government Union along with clarification on what clubs needed to do to remain in good standing. The Senate Committees, the leadership conference and the Saint Leo Serves (formerly Make a Difference Day) event were all subjects that these amendments included.

Anything that is not in the SGU's constitution cannot be enforced, so these amendments gave the executive board the ability to enforce policies that they originally weren't able to enforce.

The senators and advisors all had a positive view on last year's changes.

"Between last year and this year, we've been working really diligently to try and get [the constitution] fixed. I think [these changes] portray the Senators very well, but on the same note, I feel like there's always work that could be done and we could always try to improve and... get something more stable for the student body because consistent change isn't always the best thing for growth," said Judicial Committee head Rose Foley.

The Judicial Committee hopes to have all the proposed amendments drafted within this year so that they can present them to the rest of the Senate in the spring semester. Some of the proposed changes in November are that the vice president of Communications Management (VPCM) will constitutionally be the person who leads the President's Council. Saint Leo's mascot, Fritz the Lion, will be officially owned by SGU. Also, if you are in the SGU executive board, you will officially not be able to represent any club in a President's Council meeting. A lot of these amendments are about things that SGU already does; they just haven't been written in the constitution yet.

The senators are hopeful that the constitution will be completely fixed this year.

"With how hard we have worked on [the constitution] previously, I feel like it's finally coming together and it's finally a functioning piece of work. I'm really glad that the Standing Rules and Judicial Committee last year...started a lot of change. And I think we're just here to finish that change as this year's Senators," said Foley.

The Senate advisors hope that the changes to the constitution will be final and that it won't need to be changed for a long time.

"I hope that at the end of this year or in the next few months we have [the constitution] in a place where next year we don't have to go back and redo it," said Orlando.

Stay tuned to *The Lions' Pride Media Group's* every other issue for future Senate updates!

Editorials

What Are We Voting For?

By Travis Farmer
Editorials Editor

Citizens in Florida are already beginning to vote as we quickly approach the Nov. 6 formal voting date. This midterm, we're electing the governor, representatives, senators and voting on amendments. However, amendments are special amongst these because they are not a person, they are a concept, and as such can get very confusing in how they are worded. There are 12 amendments this year on the ballot, and what do they actually mean when they are worded so confusingly?

Amendment 1

Amendment 1 is a bill to increase the exemption to the homestead property tax. A homestead property tax exemption is a tax exemption that occurs when a house is over a certain value and saves the homeowners a couple of hundred dollars a year in taxes. Amendment 1 is attempting to give homeowners with homes valued more than $125,000 an additional $25,000 exemption. While this would save homeowners money, it would also cost Florida's cities and counties an approximated $690 million. This loss in taxes would result in cuts to services, higher local rates and other places for higher local taxes to compensate for the loss of money.

Amendment 2

Amendment 2 is another tax bill that makes permanent a currently temporary cap of 10 percent on annual property value increases. This means that any vacation home, apartment and commercial properties would only be able to increase 10 percent a year property value wise. This would end up with lower tax bills but would once again continue to deny local governments the tax revenue they would otherwise collect.

Amendment 3

Amendment 3 is a bill that would limit gambling in Florida, requiring any new casino gambling decisions to be made through an amendment, rather than the legislature. This would mean that any new gambling decisions would have to be made as an amendment on a future ballot. This is a good bill and supported by Disney, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the League of Women Voters of Florida and No Casinos Inc. Obviously, casino owners want this to fail so that any pro-gambling decisions can be lobbied for and easier to pass.

Amendment 4

Amendment 4 is arguably the most important issue on this year's ballots and would allow felons to vote in Florida after their time has been served, excluding those convicted of sex crimes and murder. According to the Governer's Clemency Board, this would help lower recidivism rates, employment rates, prison costs and have a positive effect on the economy. Florida is currently one of only four states that ban felons from voting for life and is a notably racially imbalanced rule. To learn more about Amendment 4, find Madison Whatley's deeper look into it on page 5 in "Vote Yes on 4, say Yes to Fair Elections for All Floridians".

Amendment 5

Amendment 5 would, if passed, require for a supermajority vote of 66 percent to pass any bills that raise state taxes or fees. This means that if a bill were to come to the state legislature, 66 percent of the legislatures would need to agree to pass the bill. This is a very biased bill and could lead to a case where if a democratic majority were to come into the state legislature, they would not be able to pass any taxation legislature unless they had 66 percent of the vote. This is an attempt to help keep taxes down even if conservative lawmakers were to lose their majority in Congress. This also means that if the Democratic candidate for governor, Andrew Gillum, were to win that it would be even harder for him to pass any of the plans he has. This bill is opposed by the League of Women Voters of Florida, the Florida Education Association and the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Amendment 6

Amendment 6 is a particularly confusing one, as it says to expand the rights of victims of crime. However, it also has some things hidden in the writings. The amendment would enshrine in the state constitution many victims' rights that are alrighty in state law, place new time limits on filing appeals, requiring that victims receive written notification of their rights and eliminate an existing constitutional provision that ensures victims' rights don't infringe on the rights of the accused. The bill also includes a change that would raise the mandatory age for Supreme Court justices and judges from 70 to 75 and would prohibit courts and judges from deferring to an administrative agency's interpretation of laws when deciding a case.

This amendment has it's good and bad parts. The victims' rights section is mostly

Photo taken from: @SunSentinel

Voters in Florida are turning out in historical numbers already, with both parties hoping to bring the vote to their side for either Andrew Gillum or Ron Desantis

Editorials

good, working off of Marsy's Law which is a Californian bill of rights act to give victims' rights. However, it seems that the Marsy's Law section is being used to bait voters into also passing the two hidden parts into law when they should be their own amendments.

It should also be mentioned that this bill would allow victim's rights to overwrite the accused's constitutional rights. These are all reasons that the bill is being opposed by many of the state's newspapers, the ACLU of Florida, the League of Women Voters of Florida and the Southern Poverty Law Center. This is the type of bill designed to trick voters and should be stopped.

Amendment 7

Amendment 7 is a big one and deals with universities in Florida, first responders and military families. Amendment 7 would force universities to get a supermajority approval from the state Board of Governors to increase student fees and would make the governing framework for state colleges a part of the constitution.

Amendment 7 would also create a constitutional requirement for the government to pay death benefits to first responders and members of the military who are Florida residents or are stationed in Florida. Amendment 7 is opposed by several of the liberal organizations in Florida, stating that the members of the military who die are already given benefits by the federal government and saying that the supermajority clause for universities is once again a power move by conservative members of the legislature. This is why it is opposed by the Florida Education Association and League of Women Voters of Florida.

Amendment 8

Amendment 8 was found to violate the state constitution and was removed from the ballot by the Florida Supreme Court for purposefully misleading voters.

Amendment 9

Amendment 9 does two positive things for the environment and people around the state. The amendment prohibits offshore oil and gas drilling, and also prohibits vaping in enclosed indoor workplaces. This is a simple and very positive bill, protecting the Gulf of Mexico from oil spills and drilling and also protecting citizens from the possible secondhand inhalation problems from e-cigarettes.

Amendment 10

Amendment 10's official text reads: "...Requires the Legislature to hold its session in early January on even-numbered years; creates an Office of Domestic Security and Counterterrorism within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; mandates the existence of a state Department of Veterans' Affairs; forces all counties to elect a sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser, supervisor of elections and Clerk of Circuit Court." This does several things, and most notably limits the voters in local charter county areas from deciding on their own county officials. Some of it is also redundant as the state constitution already has the power to set specific dates during even-numbered years and has already authorized the legislature to create of Department of Veteran Affairs.

Amendment 11

Amendment 11 would repeal a century-old law that allows the Legislature to restrict the property rights of non-citizens and would delete language from the onstitution that is obsolete and would allow criminals to be prosecuted by law even if that law has been changed by the Legislature. This is a simple pass and just helps clean up the already confusing state constitution.

Amendment 12

Amendment 12 would expand ethics rules for elected officials and government employees by expanding from two to six years the time that officials would need to wait before being able to become a lobbyist. A lobbyist is someone who tries to persuade or lobby state officials into doing a certain thing that they want to do for a reason. For example, the federal government is heavily lobbied by the tobacco industry to not pass tobacco legislation. Knowing this, and how powerful lobbying is, it's clear that this needs to pass to better unbias our state officials.

Amendment 13

Finally, amendment 13 would ban gambling on dog races, effectively banning greyhound races in Florida. Not only is this a gambling issue, but it is also an animal cruelty issue. Greyhound racing is known for being very cruel to the animals involved, and banning it is supported by Grey2K USA and the League of Women Voters of Florida.

Vote Yes on "4" for Fair Elections

By Madison Whatley

Arts & Entertainment Editor

Early voting has already begun for the Florida Midterm Elections. The official date to vote is Nov. 6. Florida voters will be able to decide on their ballots if they wish to allow formerly convicted felons the right to vote. Perhaps the most important of the 12 amendments on this ballot, Amendment 4 would restore voting rights for felons that have completed their sentences and were convicted of crimes other than murder or sexual offenses.

Currently, according to NPR, more than 10 percent of Florida's adult population is prohibited from voting for life due to prior convictions, which is about 1.5 million individuals. One of every 13 African-Americans has lost their voting rights due to felony disenfranchisement laws, compared to one in every 56 non-black voters (source: ACLU). As a result of this disproportionate and harsh punishment, our elections in Florida are less fair to all demographics because they reflect the views of only certain races. Therefore, current election results are not representative of all Floridians. We are currently shutting out a significant amount of our people from our democracy. Florida is one of only four states that does this among Virginia, Iowa and Kentucky.

While the amendment should be seen as a bipartisan human rights solution, it is interesting to see the gubernatorial nominees' stances on the issue. Democratic nominee Andrew Gillum lays out his stance, clearly, on his website that he supports in second chances for formerly convicted criminals and will work toward positive re-entry into society. It is more difficult to find Republican nominee Ron DeSantis' stance, but he did tell the Tampa Bay Times, "... I don't support automatic restoration of voting rights. I'm going to be very tough on crime, and I'm never going to budge on that." He sort of dances around the issue.

The amendment does not apply to those convicted of murder or sex crimes. Therefore, a significant amount of those affected are people charged with low-level drug offenses. These non-violent criminals should be able to go through rehabilitation and have the same fair shot at a happy, healthy life as any other individual and restoring voter rights is one way to support that re-entry into normalcy. Restoring rights is not "soft on crime," meaning it will not encourage ex-felons to commit more crimes. In fact, it has the opposite effect. Positive re-entry keeps formerly convicted felons away from lives of crime by encouraging them to move forward.

The current restoration system in place is largely ineffective. It requires felons to appeal to the governor and his cabinet to get their rights back. However, few applicants are accepted. Out of over 1.6 million disenfranchised voters in 2016, only 2,000 were approved in Tallahassee to have their voting rights restored according to the Brennan Center for Justice.

Many are getting behind this amendment under the direction of the Christian spirit of forgiveness. If forgiveness is part of your faith, that is a fair enough reason to vote for this. However, I would also urge you to consider the racial disparity as an important factor as well, because those statistics matter. Whether or not ex-felons should be forgiven by non-felons is irrelevant if you believe that in the eyes of the government, people of all races, genders and socioeconomic backgrounds should have the same rights.

The disproportionate amount of African Americans affected by felon disenfranchisement from voting is not a standalone issue. According to the US Sentencing Commission, black men got 19.1 percent longer sentences for the same federal crimes as white men between fiscal years 2012 and 2016.

Additionally, innocent black people are about 12 times more likely to be wrongfully convicted of drug crimes than innocent white people according to the National Registry of Exonerations. Black people receive harsher punishments for the same crimes that white people commit and receive slaps on the wrists for in America, and they are treated by the justice system with unfair biases. For these reasons, black people are more affected by felon voter disenfranchisement.

Restoring voter rights for felons would allow for more diverse voices to be heard. It would be a step in the right direction towards fair changes in the criminal justice system because people who have actually been through the process will have a say in how it could be better. It just makes sense that all people should have a say in our democracy.

Arts & Entertainment

People's Choice 2018 Predictions

By: Kristin Vitagliano, Bernard Ramos, and Madison Whatley (The Leos)

Contributing Writer, Advertising Manager, and A&E Editor

We are a committee of entertainment experts. Each of our comments are under our initials; we are projecting the winners for the Movie and Television categories of the People's Choice Awards 2018. Stay tuned for our Music and Culture projections in the next issue and be sure to vote for your favorites in our Facebook poll! Watch the People's Choice Awards on E! network Nov. 11.

Movies

Movie of 2018:

"Black Panther," "Avengers: Infinity War," "Incredibles 2," "Fifty Shades Freed," "A Quiet Place"

MW: "Black Panther" should win in this category. I appreciated the powerful statement against colonialism in this Marvel story.

BR: This was a tough choice to choose between "Black Panther" or "Avengers: Infinity War" since I loved both movies. I have to agree with Madison with "Black Panther." It has such a powerful statement with race but also with women. The women in this movie make it excellent and show they can have power as well.

KV: "Black Panther" had such an impact on those who saw it, so I'd have to go with it as well. Both Madison and Bernard stated it perfectly.

Comedy Movie of 2018:

"Love, Simon," "Blockers," "The Spy Who Dumped Me," "Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again," "Crazy Rich Asians"

MW: "Love, Simon" should be a runaway. I went to see it twice and read the book it's based on, and it's sequel because I just fell in love with it. The characters are authentic and funny. While Simon's coming out experience is not positive at first, he has a lot of support at home, and his love story is cute and romantic. It's the first sweet, upbeat LGBT romantic comedy I've seen on the big screen, and it is really well done.

BR: "Crazy Rich Asians" clearly takes the prize for this category. I loved "Love Simon," but this was more of a coming-of-age, self-discovery movie rather than a comedy. "Crazy Rich Asians" will make you laugh until you cry in some scenes. Awkwafina is the reason this movie should win as well.

KV: I wouldn't necessarily call "Mamma Mia" comedic enough to vote for it in this category.

Photo by @TheBlackPanther

"Black Panther" was a highly anticipated film that did very well this year. It attracted fans outside of the usual Marvel fandom, which is hard to do for a superhero movie. It was risky for Marvel to focus on a story separate from the "Avengers" franchise.

Action Movie of 2018:

"Black Panther," "Avengers: Infinity War," "Deadpool 2," "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom," "Ocean's 8"

MW: My pick is "Ocean's 8." I love the twist at the end, and I love that the women work together using each of their best skills to pull off a seemingly impossible task.

BR: "Ocean's 8" is my pick as well, although "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" has a place in my heart. This movie was so much fun to watch. I loved the idea of robbing the Met Gala. You have to give credit to the actresses as well who all had screen time to shine in the movie and needed each other.

KV: "Ocean's 8". I don't know what else to say other than repeating what was already mentioned by Madison and Bernard.

Drama Movie of 2018:

"Fifty Shades Freed," "12 Strong," "Red Sparrow," "Midnight Sun," "A Quiet Place"

BR: I have a feeling "Fifty Shades Freed" will be the winner for this category. This is a toss-up between "Fifty Shades Freed" and "A Quiet Place." I thought "A Quiet Place" was more of a horror, suspenseful and thrilling type of movie, not really drama.

KV: I'd have to go with "Red Sparrow" here. It had a lot more twists and turns than "Fifty Shades Freed," and overall, just felt so much more striking and dramatic with where the characters' choices went. But due to popularity, I would not be shocked if "Fifty Shades Freed" did win.

Family Movie of 2018:

"Incredibles 2," "A Wrinkle in Time," "Hotel Transylvania 3," "I Can Only Imagine," "Christopher Robin"

MW: As a new adult who at one point slept in a Winnie the Pooh bassinet with Hundred Acre Wood wallpaper on my nursery walls, I have to go with "Christopher Robin." I was touched by how Christopher Robin reconnected with his childhood friends from the Wood as an adult, and I related to it. It was a sweet story, nostalgic for anyone who grew up with those characters. I appreciated the nostalgia from "Incredibles 2" as well, but the film was not abundantly impressive on its own.

BR: I only watched "Incredibles 2." Sadly, unlike everyone else, I did not think the sequel did the first movie justice. This movie still brings out the characters' own personalities, and it's a great movie for families to watch together and relate to this superpowered family.

Male Movie Star of 2018:

Chris Hemsworth, "Avengers: Infinity War"; Robert Downey Jr., "Avengers: Infinity War"; Chadwick Boseman, "Black Panther"; Chris Pratt, "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom"; Nick Robinson, "Love, Simon"

MW: This one is tough. I, personally, am a fan of all of these male actors. However, I think that Nick Robinson should take this one for his role in "Love, Simon," because his portrayal of the character felt very genuine. His mannerisms and speech pulled off the funny awkwardness of a real high school boy figuring out dating.

Photoby @NickRobinson

"Love, Simon" was Nick Robinson's break-out film of his career as a lead actor.

BR: Every single one of these actors is amazing, but Nick Robinson should win this award. As a newcomer, he did a great job bringing Simon from the book to life. He played the typical high school student who drinks iced coffee with his friends.

KV: Even though I haven't seen "Love, Simon," and just going off of what I know of it, Nick Robinson should definitely win this. As much as I love Marvel, I don't think any of those actors did anything as impactful as what Nick did in "Love, Simon." His acting in "Love, Simon" made many of my friends who saw it cry from how beautifully he did with the story.

Female Movie Star of 2018:

Scarlett Johansson, "Avengers: Infinity War"; Sandra Bullock, "Ocean's 8"; Anne Hathaway, "Ocean's 8"; Lily James, "Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again"; Bryce Dallas Howard, "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom"

MW: Anne Hathaway takes it away for me. She's always been an outstanding woman with a great career, but her character in "Ocean's 8" stands out as a complex, strong and interesting individual that Hathaway pulls off with finesse.

BR: Lily James got her name out there when she starred in the live action version of "Cinderella." Unfortunately, we were unable to hear her sing but in "Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again" her fantastic voice gets heard. She deserves this award for her acting and voice in this movie. Fans of the first movie will really believe Lily James is the young Meryl Streep. Let's give this award to a newcomer.

KV: For sure Lily James. She had to prove to everyone that she could be a young Meryl Streep, especially over many young actresses I've seen fans fan-cast, and I believe she did so amazingly. Her voice just fit for that movie, and I believed that she did a great job coming into a story with characters that people loved so much already.

Drama Movie Star of 2018:

John Krasinski, "A Quiet Place"; Emily Blunt, "A Quiet Place"; Jennifer Lawrence, "Red Sparrow"; Chris Hemsworth, "12 Strong"; Jamie Dornan, "Fifty Shades Freed"

BR: John Krasinski because he created, directed and even acted in "A Quiet Place." He deserves something for all of his talent.

KV: Though I'm not sure the chances are high, it would be cool to see Jennifer Lawrence win this. Her performance in "Red Sparrow" was surprising. Though John definitely deserves this award for all that work on "A Quiet Place."

Arts & Entertainment

Photo by @CW_Twitter

Many Gen Z kids remember Cole Sprouse from his Disney days on "The Suite Life of Zack and Cody," but he has now made a name for himself on the popular CW show "Riverdale" based on the "Archie" comics.

Comedy Movie Star of 2018:

Melissa McCarthy, "Life of the Party"; John Cena, "Blockers"; Nick Robinson, "Love, Simon"; Amanda Seyfried, "Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again"; Mila Kunis, "The Spy Who Dumped Me"

MW: I have to go with "Love, Simon" again because it's such a great romantic comedy. I enjoyed "The Spy Who Dumped Me," but it was a bit of a letdown from the amount of laughter I was expecting. "Blockers" did have a lot of hilarious moments and is a close second for me, but unfortunately, I don't see John Cena's typical role of a fumbling muscular man with a good heart competing with Nick Robinson's character in such an innovative film as "Love, Simon."

BR: Mila Kunis should get this award for her movie "The Spy Who Dumped Me." I did like "Love Simon," but I found it more as a coming of age movie rather than a comedy. Mila Kunis surprisingly made me laugh more than I expected especially since I went in thinking it would be boring. I have to give major props to Mila Kunis.

Action Movie Star of 2018:

Chris Hemsworth, "Avengers: Infinity Wars"; Ryan Reynolds, "Deadpool 2"; Chadwick Boseman, "Black Panther"; Danai Gurira, "Black Panther"; Chris Pratt, "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom"

MW: I think that "Black Panther" was the best action film of the year. The sarcasm of "Deadpool" has never interested me, the new "Jurassic World" was a letdown and the new "Avengers" movie was unmemorable. That said, I think Danai Gurira should take it home over Chadwick Boseman. She was a fan favorite. Girl power!

BR: Danai Gurira needs to win this award and what would be better is she is the only female in this category. Yes, she is the only female, but in the "Black Panther" movie her stunts and fighting sequences were well choreographed. Not only did she dominant in "Black Panther," but in the new "Avengers" movie, she proved she was worthy to save the universe.

KV: Not much more needs to be said: Danai Gurira.

TV Show of 2018:

"This Is Us," "Grey's Anatomy," "The Big Bang Theory," "13 Reasons Why," "Shadowhunters: The Mortal Instruments"

MW: "This Is Us" will most likely win this award. It has a large fan base for a clear reason: it's a different show with a sweet story and charming stars. "13 Reasons Why" would be the runner-up for me because it's authentic. One thing is for sure: "The Big Bang Theory" has run its course.

BR: "This Is Us" is clearly the winner in this award because it has no competition. "Greys Anatomy" might have a fair chance of winning but I think it's time for something new and fresh. Plus, "Grey's Anatomy" does not make me feel the same emotions as watching "This Is Us."

KV: It's a tie between two for me. "This is Us" is a clear competitor with all the emotion it evokes. However, "Shadowhunters: The Mortal Instruments" may surprise us. It has had its rough moments, but as the show is coming to an end, it isn't letting go as a lot of other shows do. "Shadowhunters" is actually going to try to give us a conclusion where many other shows just leave off on cliffhangers when they are canceled. I have also seen the fan base that the show has accumulated, and its fans are true and dedicated.

Drama Show of 2018:

"This Is Us," "Grey's Anatomy," "13 Reasons Why," "Riverdale," "The Handmaid's Tale"

MW: Again, I think "This Is Us" is a clear winner.

BR: I think that "Riverdale" should win this award but I already know it won't. Since "Riverdale" sadly has no chance of winning I believe "The Handmaid's Tale" will take this award. It has gained critical acclaim from critics, has a huge following and won many other awards from the best.

Comedy Show of 2018:

"The Big Bang Theory," "Modern Family," "Black-ish," "Orange Is the New Black," "The Good Place"

MW: I have to go with "The Good Place." It is often dark humor, which is not my preference, but it is very clever.

BR: I had a toss-up between "Modern Family" and "The Good Place" but I'm choosing "Modern Family." "Modern Family" has been around for so long and that show still makes me laugh every time I watch it with some loveable characters as well. "The Good Place" was a great show in season 1 but season 2 was not as funny to be called a comedy show still.

Photo by @HelloMag

Drew Barrymore has been famous since she was a toddler. Her most recent success on "Santa Clarita Diet" positions her as a star to watch this award season.

Revival Show of 2018:

"American Idol," "One Day at a Time," "Queer Eye," "Jersey Shore: Family Vacation," "Dynasty"

MW: I adore "Queer Eye." I remember watching the original with my grandma when I was a little kid, and this revival did not disappoint! The show is back not just to do makeovers but to inspire and motivate. It's impossible not to fall in love with those guys.

BR: "One Day at a Time" is a show every single person needs to watch ASAP. This show will make you laugh, cry, smile and just make you feel good. After season 2 I knew I loved

Continued on Page 8

Photo by @peopleschoice

Five nominees in each of the 43 categories are competing for this trophy.

Film Reviews Online

Every week, we post reviews of the latest film releases to our website. These are the movies still playing at local theaters that we have reviewed to help you decide if they are worth seeing:

"Bad Times at the El Royale"

- "A Star Is Born"

To read these film reviews and more, visit thelionspridеonline.com and click on the Arts & Entertainment subtab.

Also check out this series review online.

Arts & Entertainment

People's Choice Predictions Cont'd

Continued from Page 7

the show. For a warning, with the last episode of season 2 you might need a box of tissues so be prepared.

Reality Show of 2018:

"Jersey Shore: Family Vacation," "Queer Eye," "Keeping Up With the Kardashians," "Chrisley Knows Best," "Vanderpump Rules"

MW: I must go with "Queer Eye" again. Their uplifting message has made me feel so much better at times when I was stressing out over assignments for classes. It is truly a feel-good show.

BR: "Jersey Shore: Family Vacation" is going to win this award no doubt. I mean who doesn't love watching messy people act crazy and reckless. I do want to thank Snooki for introducing the world to fried pickles.

Competition Show of 2018:

"The Voice," "Ellen's Game of Games," "Big Brother," "RuPaul's Drag Race," "America's Got Talent"

MW: In all honesty, I find all of these shows to be tired.

BR: The only competition show I have watched in this list of nominations is "Big Brother," but I don't think it deserves to win. The show went from being about competition to just people too busy looking for love. "Ellen's Game of Games" should win since I love Ellen.

Male TV Star of 2018:

Andrew Lincoln, "The Walking Dead"; Cole Sprouse, "Riverdale"; Justin Chambers, "Grey's Anatomy"; Freddie Highmore, "The Good Doctor"; Harry Shum Jr., "Shadowhunters: The Mortal Instruments"

MW: I think that Freddie Highmore will take it for "The Good Doctor." It's a very popular show as of late, and he does have a challenging role to play as there is pressure to do right by the community of individuals that have Autism.

BR: Cole Sprouse deserves to win this award. "Riverdale" became a hit with a huge following and they are already on season 3. Sprouse plays Jughead, though it is nothing like the Jughead in the comics, but he became a fan favorite and is doing an excellent job in bringing the character to life.

KV: I'd love to see Harry Shum Jr. win this category. He has taken a beloved bisexual character from the "Mortal Instrument" series and brought him to life beautifully.

Female TV Star of 2018:

Ellen Pompeo, "Grey's Anatomy"; Mandy Moore, "This Is Us"; Camila Mendes, "Riverdale"; Viola Davis, "How to Get Away With Murder"; Katherine McNamara, "Shadowhunters: The Mortal Instruments"

MW: I have to agree with Bernard that Mandy Moore should take this award. She is one fierce momma on "This Is Us."

BR: This was a toss-up between Mandy Moore and Viola Davis because both are just excellent actresses. Actually, all of these actresses are amazing. I believe Mandy Moore will win this award because Viola Davis is a better actress and deserves more. Mandy Moore does bring emotion and the show together in "This Is Us" because without her character the show would be nothing.

Drama TV Star of 2018:

Ellen Pompeo, "Grey's Anatomy"; Mariska Hargitay, "Law & Order: SVU"; KJ Apa, "Riverdale"; Darren Criss, "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story"; Katherine Langford, "13 Reasons Why"

Photo by @thepostathens

The Netflix show queer eye has been nominated for several awards this season, including Reality Show of 2018.

MW: I think that Katherine Langford should win. I appreciate her activism and how she uses her platform to raise mental health awareness for teens.

BR: I have not watched any of these shows on this list besides "Riverdale" and "13 Reasons Why." Katherine Langford who plays Hannah will win this award with no doubt. She deserves credit for bringing Hannah to life especially with some scenes that she is in. She does bring an impressive performance making the pain and issues very convincing.

KV: I'd love it if Darren Criss won. I have been following his career since "A Very Potter Musical," and seeing how far he has come as an actor, especially in "The Assassination of Gianni Versace…" makes him very deserving.

Comedy TV Star of 2018:

Jim Parsons, "The Big Bang Theory"; Donald Glover, "Atlanta"; Kristen Bell, "The Good Place"; Sofia Vergara, "Modern Family"; Drew Barrymore, "Santa Clarita Diet"

MW: We are true Barrymore fans in this group! I would love to see Drew Barrymore win this award. I have looked up to her since I was a little girl.

BR: I might be playing some favoritism, but Drew Barrymore needs to win. Every other actor on this list is worthy for the win but as a huge "Wedding Singer" fan and other Barrymore movies I want her to win. To be fair "Santa Clarita Diet" was shockingly funny where season 1 I did laugh but season 2 made me laugh a lot more than I expected. This is a show everyone should check out.

KV: Drew Barrymore. I may play some favoritism, too. She is an amazing actress.

Daytime Talk Show of 2018:

"The Ellen DeGeneres Show," "Steve," "Live With Kelly and Ryan," "The Real," "Red Table Talk With Jada Pinkett Smith"

MW: I like Kelly Ripa and enjoy the show some mornings, so I'll go with "Live with Kelly and Ryan."

BR: Ellen needs to win. No questions asked. I didn't even know Jada Pinkett Smith had her own talk show, but I have a feeling she might be a winner as well.

Nighttime Talk Show of 2018:

"Jimmy Kimmel Live!," "The Late Late Show With James Corden," "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," "The Daily Show With Trevor Noah," "Watch What Happens Live With Andy Cohen"

MW: I would choose "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah" because Noah is funny and knowledgeable.

BR: "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" will most likely be the winner because have you ever seen his skits. He is actually really funny and brings out the fun side of every celebrity who comes on as a guest. Plus Jimmy Fallon has his own ride at Universal Studios in Orlando.

Competition Contestant of 2018:

Nikki Bella, "Dancing With the Stars"; Maddie Poppe, "American Idol"; Brynn Cartelli, "The Voice"; Cody Nickson, "The Amazing Race"; Eva Igo, "World of Dance"

MW: I have to say, Eva Igo is an amazing dancer! She is able to move in a way that is almost inhuman, and her facial expressions take her performances to a wild, almost supernatural place. As an aside, I'd highly recommend "World of Dance," especially if any of you are fans of Jennifer Lopez like me.

Reality TV Star of 2018:

Khloe Kardashian, "Keeping Up With the Kardashians"; Antoni Porowski, "Queer Eye"; Joanna Gaines, "Fixer Upper"; Paul "Pauly D" DelVecchio, "Jersey Shore: Family Vacation"; Nikki Bella, "Total Bellas"

MW: I want Antoni Porowski from "Queer Eye" to win. He is their food and wine expert, and he is a total sweetheart. He also just split from his husband, so the people should support him through this low time like he always does for us on the show!

BR: Khloe Kardashian. I do not watch "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" but I do know she has been going through a lot and deserves some type of win in her life. Although, having a baby is rewarding as well.

KV: I am a major watcher of HGTV, and seeing all that Joanna Gaines has done over the past couple years with her husband (from a furniture line at Target and books and magazines) makes me hope that she received this award.

Bingeworthy Show of 2018:

"Outlander," "Queer Eye," "Shadowhunters: The Mortal Instruments," "13 Reasons Why," "Shameless"

MW: "Queer Eye." It's just perfect. I've had to refrain from watching back-to-back episodes.

BR: "Shameless!" I can not explain why this show is amazing and binge worthy. The only thing I can say is go on Netflix right now and watch it for yourself.

Sci-fi/Fantasy Show of 2018:

"Supernatural," "The Originals," "The Expanse," "Wynonna Earp," "Shadowhunters: The Mortal Instruments"

BR: I do not watch any of these shows besides the first few episodes of "Supernatural." I predict "Supernatural" will win because of how long it has been on television. The cult following for this show is so big that I will be scared to see what fans will do when this show ever does end.

KV: Even though I do have many feelings about "Shadowhunters," I'd love to see this show go out with a bang as it ends in 2019.

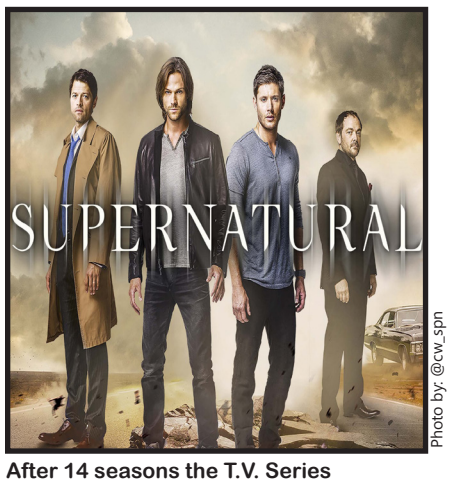

Photo by: @cw_spn

After 14 seasons the T.V. Series Supernatural is still a contender for the best Fantasy Show category.